

Fjelds, Paul

Drawer 21a

71.8009.085.02782

SCULPTOR - F

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Paul Fjelde

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Oslo

Deichmanske Bibliotek.

Anskrift av Morgenbladet no. 334 4. juli 1914.

To the norwegian People!

The People of the State of North Dakota desiring to express their admiration for the norwegian nation this year celebrating the one hundredth Anniversary of the Adoption of a Constitution securing to it the great Benefits of popular Government and in grateful Recognition of the important Part taken by the Sons and Daughters of Norway in the Development of the Commonwealth of North Dakota do hereby present to the People of Norway this Memorial to Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, the Republics foremost Exponent of Government of the People, by the People and for the People

(sign) L. B. Hanna
Governor of North Dakota

(sign) A. Gabrielsen
Sec. of the Lincoln Memorial
Ass. of North Dakota

Flagg Park, Christiania

July the 4th 1914

NORWAY TO GET BUST OF LINCOLN

(Special to the Monitor) 1717

CHRISTIANIA, Norway—In connection with the jubilee centenary celebrations in Norway a bust of President Lincoln has been presented to the country by Norwegian Americans in North Dakota. The bust which is to be unveiled on July 4, and two bronze plates have been made in America, whilst the granite pedestal has been carved in Norway.

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BUST OF LINCOLN NOW DEDICATED

Thousands at Stockyards
to See Unveiling of
Heroic Statue.

CHICAGOANS CELEBRATE

CHICAGO HERALD 2-13-16

With the unveiling and dedication of a new memorial bust of Lincoln, with public meetings and exercises in all sections of the city, Chicago commemorated yesterday the one hundred and seventh anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

The bust, which was cast in bronze and of heroic size, stands on a marble base twelve feet high on the lawn before the Exchange Building at the Union Stock Yards. It is the work of Paul Fjelde.

Business at the stock yards ceased at 11 o'clock in the morning, when the dedicatory exercises were begun. John D. Shoop, superintendent of schools, and Charles O. Brown were the principal speakers.

THOUSANDS AT CEREMONIES.

Lincoln Post, G. A. R., stock yards officials and thousands of citizens and school children witnessed the ceremonies.

Federal, state, county and city offices and banks were closed. Civic, patriotic and social organizations held appropriate exercises.

"Lincoln hated the horrors of war, yet he knew that war was not the greatest evil," said Mr. Brown in his address at the memorial dedication. "He believed that there were some things for which honorable men ought to fight and, if need be, die."

MANY MEETINGS HELD.

Among the meetings held in honor of Lincoln were the following:

Irish Fellowship Club, at Hotel LaSalle. Henry R. Rathbone, speaker.

Hamilton Club, reception and banquet, with addresses by Adjutant General Frank S. Dickson, Joe Mitchell Chapple, John D. Shoop and John Temple Graves.

Grand Army and Memorial Association, Memorial Hall. President Harry Pratt Judson of University of Chicago, speaker.

Advertising Association. Ninian Welsh, speaker.

Knights of Columbus, Father Perez Council, No. 1444, held meeting at Stockyards Inn. Robert M. Sweitzer, speaker.

Sons of Veterans, General Phil Sheridan Camp, No. 12, met at First Methodist Church, Austin. William C. Calhoun spoke.

Former Governor Deneen spoke on "Illinois" before the General Henry Dearborn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the Congress Hotel.



Oslo

Deichmanske Bibliotek.

Miss Ethel Henneford, Assistant Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation
FORT WAYNE, Indiana

Dear Madame,

The Lincoln memorial in Frogner Park, Oslo,
is a bronze bust, presented by the state of North Dakota.

The sculptor was Paul Fjelde. Enclosed You will find a
copy of the deed of gift.

Yours truly

Arne Arnesen

The statue is now in the collection of the University of Oslo.

Christiania - Norway, not Sweden

LAW OFFICES
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M. G. HEINTZ
VICTOR HEINTZ

18 EAST FOURTH STREET
CINCINNATI

June 12, 1933.

Dr. Warren

Mr. Franklin B. Mead,
Vice President,
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

It was very kind to send me a copy of your book entitled "Abraham Lincoln in Bronze". It is beautifully done and I am sure will be greatly appreciated. Our mutual friend, Mr. George A. Boissard of the National Guardian Life, was kind enough to write you concerning my request for a postcard of the statue in Madison, Wisconsin. I am gathering together cards of as many statues as I can secure but, of course, whatever collection I get will not begin to compare in merit and value with your charming book.

I desire, however, to call your attention to a statue which was erected some years ago in Christiania, Sweden. It was contributed by the Swedes of the northwestern states. Mr. Smith Stimmel of 119 Eleventh Street, South, Fargo, North Dakota, was sent to Sweden to make the dedicatory address.

Mr. Stimmel is the only survivor of Lincoln's military bodyguard during the Civil War. He is approaching ninety years of age but keeps his good health and enjoys all of his faculties. He is the oldest living graduate of Ohio Wesleyan at Delaware, he is a member of the bar of Ohio and for a number of years practiced law in this city as the office associate of Senator Joseph B. Foraker. Mr. Stimmel wrote a little book on his service as a member of the Lincoln guard and I think it contains a picture of the statue in Sweden. If it does not, I think you can get one by writing to Mr. Stimmel.

Again thanking you for your splendid gift and with kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,

MGH/db

M. G. Heintz



NEWARK ATHLETIC CLUB

NEWARK, N. J.

W. EUGENE TURTON, PRESIDENT
EUGENE F. KRAUTTER, TREASURER
THEODORE S. FETTINGER, SECRETARY
VALENTINE BJORKMAN, MANAGER

November 10, 1936

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:-

I have recently acquired a photograph
of the Lincoln Bust presented to Norway by the people
of North Dakota on July 4th, 1912. The Sculptors
name is Paul Fjelde.

The Statue is located in Frognerparken,
Oslo, Norway.

I should be very happy to send you a
complimentary copy of this photograph for your collection
if you are not already in possession of this item.

Cordially yours,

Valentine Bjorkman
Valentine Bjorkman.

VB:HJM

See Picture files for portrait



"Lindberg" i Froynerparken

1935
E. Lindberg



North Dakotan's art defied the Nazis

One of the most open and active forms of defiance of Nazi Germany's occupation during World War II revolved around a sculpted work by a person from North Dakota.

On July 4, 1940, thousands of Norwegians streamed around the Lincoln Memorial Bust in Oslo's Frogner Park. This act was in direct defiance of the Nazis, who forbade all public demonstrations in Norway.

The bust of Abraham Lincoln was sculpted by Paul Fjelde, who grew up on a farm near Wilton.

Fjelde was born Aug. 12, 1892, to Jacob and Margaret Fjelde, in Minneapolis. His parents emigrated in 1887 from Norway, where his father had been a budding young sculptor and his mother a talented musician.

Jacob Fjelde died in 1896 at the age of 36. His wife was left to raise four small children - Paul Fjelde and his three sisters.

In 1902, the family moved to a small farm near Wing.

She took a job in a restaurant in Wilton and then secured a homestead nearby.

The work on the farm was hard, and the crops failed as a result of little rainfall.

Realizing the tremendous talent exhibited by her young son, she moved back to Minnesota in 1907 so that Paul Fjelde could attend the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts.

They returned to Wilton in 1909 and moved to Valley City in 1911 so that Paul Fjelde and two of his sisters could attend college. When Mary Goodrich Deem, an art instructor at the Normal School (now Valley City State College), saw some of his art work, she contacted Lorado Taft, a noted Chicago artist.

Taft agreed to help, so Paul Fjelde went to Chicago in 1912. Under Taft's tutelage at the Art Institute of Chicago, Fjelde's talent blossomed.

In 1912, Norway presented a statue of Duke Rollo, a 10th century Viking chieftain, to North Dakota's Norwegian-Americans. On July 12, a great dedication celebration was held in Fargo when it was placed next to the Great Northern railroad depot.

Louis B. Hanna was elected North Dakota governor later that year, and he was looking for a way to reciprocate this gift.

The 1913 North Dakota Legislature authorized \$10,000 for a presentation at Norway's Centennial Constitution Day Celebration to be held in 1914.

On a trip to Gettysburg, Hanna noticed the sculpted statues and busts commemorating the important people and events of the Civil War.

One of the statues on exhibit was by Jacob Fjelde, which honored the dead of the First Minnesota Infantry.

When Hanna returned, he appointed a five-member committee to find a suitable gift for Norway's Centennial Constitution Day Celebration.

On the committee were Dr. Herman O. Fjelde, Paul Fjelde's uncle, and Mary Deem, the Valley City teacher who recommended Paul Fjelde to Taft.

The committee agreed that the gift would be a bust of Abraham Lincoln, and a competition was opened to competitive bids.

Fjelde's work was judged the best, although some might argue that it did not hurt that his uncle and former mentor controlled two of the votes.

Hanna met with Fjelde, and the young sculptor said he "could do it."

When his model was completed, the full committee traveled to Chicago to view Fjelde's work. They liked it.

Led by Hanna, a delegation from North Dakota traveled to Norway with Fjelde's 500-pound bronze bust of Lincoln.

On July 4, 1914, it was erected in Oslo's (called Christiania at the time) Frogner Park, where it was unveiled and presented to the king of Norway and other dignitaries.

A replica can be seen today on the courthouse lawn in Hillsboro.

After studying at Paris and Copenhagen, Fjelde became one of America's best and most prolific sculptors.

In 1939, war broke out in Europe, and on April 9, 1940, Germany launched a surprise attack on Norway.

The Norwegians may have been down, but they were not out.

All public demonstrations were forbidden in Norway, but the citizens were defiant to the end.

Every year on the Fourth of July, people had celebrated at Fjelde's statue of Lincoln.

On July 4, 1940, thousands of Norwegians gathered around the Lincoln memorial bust in reverent silence because freedom now had a special meaning.

Who better to symbolize their plight than "The Great Emancipator"?

The Nazis could not stop them, and, each Fourth of July during the years that the Nazis controlled Norway, Fjelde's bust of Lincoln became a gathering point and a source of hope.

Now, over 60 years later, it is still a gathering place each July 4.

Paul Fjelde died on May 3, 1984, in Brewster, Mass.

He lives on with his many statues all over the world, but will always be best remembered for his bust of Abraham Lincoln in Oslo.

(Written by Curt Eriksmoen and edited by Jan Eriksmoen. Reach the Eriksmoens at cjeriksmoen@cableone.net.)

